United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1321
1 February 1993

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

• In "largest cease-fire violation" since UNTAC began operation last March, Cambodian People's Armed Forces launch series of attacks on National Alliance of Democratic Kampuchea in several provinces in Cambodia, United Nations spokesman says; calls the offensive action "unacceptable".

• Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberacion Nacional has not completed weapons destruction by agreed 29 January deadline; is therefore not yet in compliance with obligations under Peace Accords for El Salvador, says Secretary-General.

• At meeting Friday evening, 29 January, Security Council endorses plan to send fact-finding mission to assess "deteriorating" situation in Georgia; humanitarian mission sent to Tbilisi to assess food situation in Abkhazia and south Ossetia.

• Also Friday, Security Council appeals for fuel and humanitarian assistance for Armenia and Nakhichevan area of Azerbaijan and asks parties to agree to cease-fire.

• Madeleine Korbel Albright, new Permanent Representative of United States to United Nations presents credentials to Secretary-General.

• Ukraine protests recent allegations that it supplied petroleum products to Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) by way of Danube, thereby violating United Nations sanctions against that Republic.

• Federal Republic of Yugoslavia calls for extension of mandate of United Nations Protection Force in territory of former Yugoslavia for another 12-month period.

• Turkey regrets United Nations report of investigation of assassination of Bosnian Deputy Prime Minister saying it "played down gross negligence and heavy responsibility" of UNPROFOR.

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In the "largest cease-fire violation" since the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) began its operation on 15 March 1992, the Cambodian People's Armed Forces (CPAF) has launched a series of attacks on the National Alliance for a Democratic Kampuchea (NADK) in several provinces in Cambodia over the last four days, according to a spokesman for UNTAC today.

Although no casualty figures were available so far, it was confirmed that no UNTAC personnel had been injured or killed in the attacks and that none of them were believed to be in imminent danger. The spokesman said UNTAC personnel in the field were being kept abreast of the situation and were in turn informing Headquarters of the security in their areas.

According to the spokesman, the attacks focused on two broad areas in the country -- one in the province of Battambang and another in the provinces of Kompong Thom and Preah Vihear. Cease-fire violations in the south-west district of Prek Prasap in the Kratie province and in Angkor Chum and Chi Kreng districts of Siem Reap province did not appear to be linked with the two larger areas of fighting, he said.

Although it was understood that the CPAF and the Party of the State of Cambodia were "frustrated by the current political and military situation", the spokesman said that UNTAC found CPAF's offensive actions "unacceptable".

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has reported to the Security Council that the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLNL) has not completed the destruction of its weapons by the agreed 29 January deadline, and that it was therefore not yet in compliance with its obligations under the peace Accords.

In a letter to the Council President, dated 20 January, the Secretary-General noted that the FMLN had undertaken to resume the destruction of its arms and equipment on 22 January and to complete it within a week from that date.

The armed conflict between the FMLN and the Salvadoran Government was brought formally to an end on 15 December and the destruction by the FMLN of its arms inventory was to have been completed on that date, except for certain categories of weapons which would take longer to destroy for technical reasons.

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The Security Council has agreed to send a new mission to Georgia to assess the overall political situation in Abkhazia and to dispatch a human rights fact-finding mission to Abkhazia to look into allegations of human

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rights violations by both sides. The human rights mission left for Tbilisi over the weekend.

The Council took that action on Friday evening, 29 January, in a statement read out by Council President Yoshio Hatano (Japan), in which the Council expressed its grave preoccupation over the deterioration of the situation in Abkhazia and called on all the parties to cease fighting immediately and to implement faithfully the agreement reached in Moscow last September.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had proposed to send a new mission to Georgia to discuss and provide advice on practical matters such as the establishment and monitoring of an immediate cease-fire, with particular emphasis on the border of Abkhazia between Georgia and the Russian Federation.

The Secretary-General had also proposed to send a mission to Abkhazia, which left for Tbilisi over the weekend, to assess the food supply situation and other emergency needs of refugees and other people affected by the economic and social crisis in Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

According to the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, the inter-agency mission is led by the Chief of the Relief Coordination Branch of that Department and is composed of officials from a number of United Nations agencies. Living conditions have dramatically deteriorated in Georgia, where more than 50,000 people have already registered as displaced and thousands of others have fled to neighbouring countries as refugees, the Department said.

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In a separate development on Friday evening, the Security Council appealed for fuel and humanitarian assistance for Armenia and the Nakhichevan area of Azerbaijan.

In a statement read out to the press following consultations of the Council, its President Yoshio Hatano expressed concern over the devastating effect of the interruptions in the supply of goods and materials, in particular energy supplies to that region. These interruptions, combined with an unusually harsh winter, he said, had brought the economy and infrastructure of the region to near collapse and had created a real threat of starvation.

The Council urged all countries in a position to help to facilitate the provisions of fuel and humanitarian assistance and called on Governments in the region to allow humanitarian supplies to flow freely to Armenia and to the Nakhichevabn region of Azerbaijan.

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Madeleine Korbel Albright, the new Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations, today presented her credentials to

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. The new Permanent Representative was accompanied by Secretary of State Warren Cristopher, who subsequently met with the Secretary-General on a number of issues.

Ms. Albright has been President of the Center for National Policy since October 1989.

Born in Prague, she speaks English, Czech, French, Polish and Russian.

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The Ukraine has protested recent reports indicating that it supplied petroleum products to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) by way of the Danube, thereby violating United Nations sanctions against that Republic.

In a statement, dated 29 January, the Foreign Ministry of Ukraine said the shipments "were not made by vessels sailing under the Ukrainian flag", and that that in itself demonstrated, from a legal point of view, that there had been "no deviation whatsoever from the international standards established by the Security Council".

During the period from November 1992 to January 1993, it said, barges sailing under the Federal Republic's flag had been loaded with petroleum products from tankers on the Danube -- which were not Ukrainian -- and offloaded by companies and organizations of Russia, Bulgaria, Greece, Cyprus and Turkey "with a view to their subsequent delivery to Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the Czech and Slovak Republics".

Accordingly, the statement said, accusations that Ukraine had "directly or indirectly" violated United Nations sanctions against the Federal Republic were "unfounded".

The statement was transmitted to the President of the Security Council by Ukrainian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Victor H. Batiouk, in a letter dated 29 January.
Document S/25201

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The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) has called for the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force in the territory of the former Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) for another 12-month period.

The call was made in a letter to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, dated 29 January, in which the Vice President of the Republic, Radoje Kontic, said that in view of the fact that the "initial mandate" of UNPROFOR was soon to expire, his Government was calling for the continuation of the peace operation, as the conditions had still not been met for UNPROFOR to pull out from the territories under its protection. On the contrary, he said, Croatian aggression illustrated that UNPROFOR was even more needed today than a year

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ago, in order to ensure the protection of the Serbian people in Krajina. Safeguarding peace and security in those areas directly was helping the negotiating process in Geneva, the letter said.

UNPROFOR was established by Security Council resolution 743 (1992) on 21 February 1992 for an initial 12-month period. That mandate expires later this month.

Meanwhile, the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, briefed the Secretary-General this afternoon at Headquarters on progress made at the peace talks in Geneva. Mr. Vance has proposed that the peace talks be moved to New York.
Document S/25193

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Turkey has expressed its concern and regret that the report of the United Nations Special Commission of Inquiry investigating the assassination of Hakija Turajlic, Deputy Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina, was written "in a manner that played down the gross negligence and heavy responsibility of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR)".

In a statement, dated 28 January, the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey said the report appeared to "seek excuses for the Serbian action" and presented the assassination as the work of a single assailant. UNPROFOR was "responsible for the protection of civilians and has the authority to use its weapons to protect lives", he said. By remaining a mere spectator to the assassination of Mr. Turajlic, the Force had failed to exercise its authority and to carry out its duty.

The Security Council asked last month the Secretary-General to undertake a full investigation into the assassination of Mr. Turajlic who was under the protection of UNPROFOR at the time of the incident on 8 January.
Document S/25194

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1322
2 February 1993

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Yugoslav peace talks to resume at United Nations Headquarters at end of this week, according to Co-Chairmen Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen.

+ Bosnia and Herzegovina asks Security Council and United States not to allow Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic to participate in Yugoslav peace talks in New York, on basis of his identification as war criminal; in separate development, urges Security Council to secure safety of 5,000 Muslims "ethnically cleansed" from city of Trebinje.

+ Four United Nations relief staff killed in Afghanistan yesterday by unidentified gunmen; Secretary-General appeals to all parties to cease hostilities and resume political negotiations; senior United Nations officials in Jalalabad to request full investigation of incident.

+ Vladimir Petrovsky to succeed Antoine Blanca as Director-General of United Nations Office at Geneva; Marrack Goulding appointed Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs; Kofi Annan to become Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, according to announcements made today.

+ Commission on Human Rights began forty-ninth session yesterday in Geneva; decides to add new item to agenda entitled "the situation of human rights in territory of former Yugoslavia".

+ World Food Programme to continue relief operations to people displaced by civil strife in Sri Lanka; to provide relief food to drought-affected persons in Nepal.

+ Awards for excellence in public service advertising promoting United Nations goals presented by Department of Public Information.

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Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia, told correspondents today that the peace talks aimed at ending the ten-month conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina, would

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resume at United Nations Headquarters in New York, probably at the end of this week, and was expected to involve representatives of all the parties.

At a press conference at Headquarters, the Co-Chairmen said they had come to the conclusion that staying in Geneva any longer was simply "delaying the peace process". They had proposed to bring the negotiations to Headquarters in order to discuss the situation with the members of the Security Council.

Mr. Vance said the Croatian Government had been asked to send its representatives to Headquarters to discuss the 'Vance Plan'. The parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina had also been invited to come and consult with members of the Security Council on the various significant issues. He emphasized that if the 'Vance Plan' was going to succeed, it needed a Security Council resolution supporting it.

The two Co-Chairmen said that United States Secretary of State Warren Christopher, in his discussions with them yesterday, had indicated that his Government was currently planning its policy with regard to the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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Meanwhile, the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina has asked the Security Council and the United States not to allow the Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, to attend the Conference on Yugoslavia in New York, on the grounds that he has been identified as a war criminal.

The Bosnian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Mohamed Sacirbey, told correspondents at a press conference at Headquarters this afternoon that the United States State Department had been asked not to issue Mr. Karadzic a visa on the basis that he had been identified by various human rights organizations as well as by former United States Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger as an individual to be prosecuted for war crimes.

He said his Government had also asked the Security Council not to allow Mr. Karadzic to be heard in the peace talks, even if he were allowed to enter the United States, "because he does not represent a legitimate government".

In a separate development, Mr. Sacirbey has urged the Security Council to take immediate steps to secure the safety of about 5,000 Muslim citizens from the town of Trebinje who, he said, had been "ethnically cleansed" from their homes by Serbian and Montenegrin paramilitary forces.

In a letter to the President of the Security Council, dated 1 February, Mr. Sacirbey said there was also an "imminent threat" to the refugees near the area of Montenegro and Serbia by the presence of Serbian and Montenegrin paramilitary forces plotting the "physical extermination" of those refugees. Document S/25210

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today expressed deep shock at the brutal murder of four United Nations relief workers, including a British and a Dutch national, by unidentified armed men yesterday near Jalalabad in Afghanistan.

In a statement issued by his Spokesman, the Secretary-General urgently appealed to all parties concerned to cease hostilities immediately and resume political negotiations. Concerned at the continued fighting in Kabul, which is exacting a heavy toll on the civilian population, he warned that the cycle of violence and lawlessness could also spread to other parts of the country.

The casualties included a British national working for the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat); a Dutch national, who was working as a consultant on water resources; and two Afghan drivers working for Habitat. A fifth member of the party managed to escape.

The Emergency Relief Coordinator and Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Jan Eliasson, has strongly condemned the brutal killings which, he said, "once again highlight the increasing dangers faced by humanitarian workers". On behalf of the Secretary-General, he requested that a full investigation be conducted by the national authorities and that additional measures of security be taken by them to ensure the safety of all relief workers in Afghanistan.

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The Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, Antoine Blanca, will leave the Organization at the end of February after several years of service, first as Director-General for International Economic Cooperation and subsequently as Director-General for the United Nations Office at Geneva, according to an announcement today at Headquarters. He will be returning to the service of his Government.

According to the announcement by the Secretary-General's Spokesman, Mr. Blanca will be succeeded as Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva by Vladimir Petrovsky, who will bring to that position his extensive political experience, particularly of European affairs, and his special expertise in disarmament and security matters.

Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, Marrack Goulding, will be appointed Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs. The announcement said Mr. Goulding's valuable experience acquired in seven years of planning and managing peace-keeping operations would be a great asset as he was assuming important responsibilities in the peace-making field.

Mr. Goulding will be succeeded by Kofi Annan, who has been serving as Assistant Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations. He will bring to that post his experience in financial management, acquired during his previous service as Comptroller, the announcement said.

All the appointments are to become effective on 1 March 1993.

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The Commission on Human Rights began its forty-ninth session yesterday in Geneva by adopting its agenda and electing its bureau for its six-week session. The Commission decided to add a new item to its agenda entitled "the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia". The debate on that issue is expected to take place early next week, when Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Commission's Special Rapporteur on the matter, will be in Geneva to report on his latest mission to the area.

Among other items on the Commission's agenda are human rights violations in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine, and in southern Africa. In addition, the Commission will discuss the human rights situation in southern Lebanon, Cuba, Romania, Albania, Iran, Iraq, Myanmar, Haiti, East Timor, Afghanistan, Equatorial Guinea and Cyprus.

Several representatives opposed the participation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) in the work of the Commission, reminding that the General Assembly had barred that country from participating in its work, pending its application for membership to the United Nations.

In an opening statement, the new Chairman, Mohamed Ennaceur (Tunesia), said the Commission should not limit itself to the simple condemnation of human rights violations. Its role should be to prevent rather than to condemn; to analyse objectively the many causes which led to human rights violations; and to evaluate progress achieved and the gaps which remained. Ultimately, the Commission's decisions should contribute to the universal respect for human rights in all regions of the world.

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The World Food Programme (WFP) today announced it would continue its emergency relief operations to supply food for 60,000 Sri Lankans who have fled the fighting areas and are staying in welfare centres.

The Programme -- the food aid organization of the United Nations -- will provide rice, sugar and pulses to cover the basic needs of the displaced people for six months. The Government has agreed to supplement this assistance with rations of coconut oil.

Since June 1990, when the fighting began between the Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the security situation in the North and East has not improved significantly. According to the WFP, the displaced people are not likely to be returning home soon.

The Agency also announced that it would provide emergency food to nearly 500,000 drought-affected persons in Nepal for a three-month period at a total cost of $3.3 million.

For the second consecutive year, the Agency said, Nepal has been hit by drought which has reduced cereal production by almost 12 per cent and caused

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widespread food shortages. Cereal production was the lowest since 1987, it said.

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The New York-based advertising agency DDB Needham Worldwide has been awarded first prize for excellence in public service advertising which promotes the ideal and goals of the United Nations. The award, for a series of public service advertisements on AIDS, was presented at the New York Festival Awards ceremony last week by the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Public Information, Eugeniusz Wyzner.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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3 February 1993

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Yugoslav interpreter killed and Danish convoy leader seriously injured yesterday in shelling attack on humanitarian convoy after delivery of food, medicines and blankets to central Bosnia, according to UNHCR.

+ Co-Chairmen of Yugoslav Conference brief members of the Security Council on peace talks scheduled to resume shortly at Headquarters.

+ Secretary-General urges Government and political leaders in Zaire to initiate dialogue to resolve differences.

+ Romania asks Security Council to take urgent measures to help it overcome economic difficulties as result of sanctions against Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

+ Bosnia and Herzegovina asks for additional investigation into assassination of Bosnian Deputy Prime Minister by independent body.

+ United Nations spokesman confirms recent explosion in United Nations convoy truck on Turkish side of border with Iraq; no injuries reported.

+ Committee against Apartheid is told by its Chairman that "apartheid must be dead and buried by the end of the year".

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A Bosnian interpreter was killed and a Danish convoy leader seriously injured yesterday in a shelling attack on a humanitarian convoy returning to Metkovic after delivering supplies of food, medicines and blankets to central Bosnia, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

According to a press release issued by the Agency in Geneva yesterday, High Commissioner Sadako Ogata strongly condemned the attack and said that only five days ago she was given assurances by the leaders of all three Bosnian warring parties that they would respect the humanitarian nature of relief convoys and guarantee them safe passage. She said she was holding the

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leaders personally responsible for the safety of the UNHCR humanitarian convoys and she had demanded that a full investigation be conducted to determine the circumstances of the attacks.

All three leaders promised Mrs. Ogata that the "constant harassment" of UNHCR convoys would be immediately stopped. the release added.

Mrs. Ogata was suspending all operations on the Mostar road and ordering all trucks to return to their bases until she received a full explanation of the incident.

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The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, briefed the five Permanent Members of the Security Council yesterday evening on the peace talks which are to resume at Headquarters shortly, according to their spokesman, Fred Eckhard. This morning, the two Co-Chairmen met with the ten non-permanent members of the Council.

They met this afternoon with representatives of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Contact Group, which includes Iran, Egypt, Pakistan, Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Eckhard said the peace talks would probably be held throughout the weekend.

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Gravely concerned at the political unrest and civil strife prevailing in Zaire, which had resulted in the death of hundreds of people, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has urged the Government and the leaders of all local political parties involved to initiate dialogue to resolve their differences peacefully.

The Secretary-General's call for peace was made in a statement yesterday, in which he also stressed that only through negotiation and the expeditious democratization of the political process could further bloodshed be avoided and peace restored in Zaire.

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Bosnia and Herzegovina has asked the Security Council to authorize an additional investigation headed by an independent body, in cooperation with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and the Bosnian Government, into the assassination of its Deputy Prime Minister, Hakija Turajlic, by Serbian forces last month.

In a letter to the President of the Security Council, dated 1 february, the Bosnian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Muhamed Sacirbey, also asked the Secretary-General to submit a report regarding the "never

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implemented" UNPROFOR control on the corridor linking Sarajevo with its airport and the steps currently undertaken by the Force to implement such controls.

Mr. Sacirbey pointed out that the Special Commission of Inquiry, set up by the Secretary-General to undertake a full investigation into the assassination, did not question a number of eyewitnesses to the incident. The Commission "apparently did not attempt to interview either the suspected assassin, whose identity it failed to mention", or any of the Serbian officers or soldiers manning the roadblock at the time of the assassination, the Bosnian Ambassador said.
Document S/25204

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Romania has requested that consultations with the Security Council be held with the view of taking urgent measures for overcoming the specific economic difficulties suffered by that country as a result of sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugolaslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

In a memorandum, the Romanian Government said that by the end of 1992, direct and indirect losses and damages to the Romanian economy, incurred since the beginning of the sanctions, were estimated at approximately $7 billion. The Government asked for financial and technical assistance from the international community, in particular the industrialized countries, which would compensate for the losses suffered.

The memorandum was submitted by the Chargé d'affaires of Romania to the United Nations, Valeriu Florean, in a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 29 January.
Document S/25207

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A United Nations spokesman confirmed today that a explosion had occurred recently in one of the United Nations convoy trucks on the Turkish side of the border with Iraq, but no injuries were reported.

The spokesman described the truck as "a fuel tanker" which was returning from Iraq and was empty at the time of the incident. The driver had abandoned the tanker at a check point under orders from the Iraqi police. According to preliminary findings, an explosive device had been placed in the lock-box of the tanker.

An investigation into the incident was underway, the spokesman added.

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The Chairman of the Committee against Apartheid, Ibrahim A. Gambari (Nigeria), told a meeting of the Committee yesterday that "apartheid must be dead and buried by the end of the year".

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After his re-election as Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Gambari said that taking into consideration the latest developments in South Africa, it might not be unrealistic to hope that by 1994, agreements would have been reached on transitional arrangements to be in place for elections of a constituent assembly and the establishment of an interim government of national unity.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

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4 February 1993

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Second phase of United Nations Operation in Somalia" one of largest to be undertaken by United Nations", according to Secretary-General's Special Representative in that country.

+ Co-Chairmen of Yugoslav Conference hold talks with European Community Ambassadors at Headquarters; need to move quicker towards establishment of war crimes tribunal discussed.

+ Security Council decides to hold election on 10 May to fill vacancy in International Court of Justice; post falls vacant following death of Judge Manfred Lachs last month.

+ Arrangements announced by Israel and United States concerning Palestinian deportees in southern Lebanon are focus of separate meetings held by Secretary-General with Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish organizations and Permanent Observer of Palestine.

+ Cedric Thornberry, Deputy Chief of UNPROFOR Mission says situation in Sector South and Pink Zones remains tense; says UNPROFOR's freedom of movement is restricted.

+ Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) says "Croatia's brutal aggression" against areas under UNPROFOR protection is continuing despite Security Council's condemnations.

+ In Cambodia, cease-fire violations are continuing in Siem Reap and Kompong Thom provinces, according to UNTAC press release.

+ Special Commission set up under Security Council resolution 687 (1991) to monitor disposal of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction establishes small presence at missile research and development centre near Baghdad; in separate development, review of United Nations Inter-Agency Humanitarian Programme in Iraq shows that essential food supply needs are being met.

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For information media--not an official record

+ World Food Programme to provide emergency food aid to refugees from Tajikistan who have fled civil unrest and are seeking safe haven in Afghanistan.

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The next phase of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM), which would include a military and supporting civilian wing, would be one of the largest operations to be undertaken by the United Nations, according to Ismat Kittani, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for that country.

At a press conference at UNOSOM Headquarters in Mogadishu yesterday, Mr. Kittani said that UNOSOM II would be given an enforcement mandate rather than the traditional peace-keeping role. The aim of the Unified Task Force had been to establish a secure environment in Somalia for the delivery of humanitarian assistance. It was now up to the Secretary-General, Mr. Kittani said, to propose to the Security Council a plan for enhancing that secure environment so that there would be no recurrence of the chaotic conditions.

He emphasized that there was "perfect cooperation" between officials of the United States and the United Nations in the consultations on the transition. The Somalis had signed an agreement on cease-fire monitoring and disarmament which was being discussed to see how it could be put into practice.

A conference on Somalia has been scheduled for 9 March in Addis Ababa to consider a proposed 1993 rehabilitation plan, which will be followed by the Conference on National Reconciliation in Somalia, scheduled to begin on 15 March also in Addis Ababa.

A report by the Secretary-General on the second phase of UNOSOM is expected next week.

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Lord Owen, Co-Chairman of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia, met with Ambassadors of the European Community at Headquarters today for a discussion of the need to move quicker towards the establishment of an international criminal tribunal in connection with the war crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Spokesman for the Co-Chairmen of the Yugoslav Conference, Fred Eckhard, told correspondents that Mr. Owen had also briefed the Ambassadors about the status of the peace talks, which are scheduled to begin in New York tomorrow. Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance have received reassurances from the European Ambassadors concerning the 'Vance-Owen' plan, he said.

Mr. Eckhard said the Co-Chairmen had also met Yuliy Vorontsov, the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations, and were later scheduled to meet Mate Boban, the Bosnian Croat leader, and Mile Akmadzic, the Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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The Security Council, at a meeting this morning, decided that election to fill a vacancy for the remainder of the term in the International Court of Justice, following the death of Judge Manfred Lachs, will be held on 10 May 1993. The election would take place at a simultaneous meeting of the Security Council and the General Assembly.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali would notify Member States about the election before 10 February, so that they would have three months to announce their nominations.

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The arrangements recently announced by the Governments of Israel and the United States concerning the 400 Palestinians in southern Lebanon, who were expelled by the Israeli authorities last month, were the focus of separate meetings held earlier this week by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali with representatives of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations and the Permanent Observer of Palestine

According to his Spokesman, the Secretary-General met on Tuesday, 2 February, with a delegation representing the Conference of Presidents. Mr. Boutros-Ghali told the Conference that he would welcome the arrangements "provided it was a first step towards implementation of resolution 799 (1992)", by which the Security Council demanded the immediate return of the deportees. The Secretary-General was asked by the Conference to urge the Palestinians to continue the peace negotiations with Israel.

Yesterday, the spokesman said, the Secretary-General received the Permanent Observer of Palestine, Nasser Al-Kidwa, to whom he conveyed the message from the Conference of Presidents. Mr. Al-Kidwa replied that while the Palestinians attached great importance to the peace process and looked forward to its continuation, it would not be possible for them to resume negotiations with Israel until resolution 799 was fully implemented.

Meanwhile, the decision by Israel in mid-December to expell 415 Palestinians has been the centre of the debate in the Commission on Human Rights currently meeting in Geneva.

According to a United Nations press officer in Geneva, the European Community, in a statement to the Commission, condemned the decision of the Israeli Government, saying the deportations were a serious violation of international law and would harm the Middle East peace process.

Amnesty International, in its statement, while condemning the deportations, called on the Islamic resistance movement to do all in its power to prevent attacks on Israeli civilians and arbitrary killing of alleged Palestinian collaborators.

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Cedric Thornberry, the Deputy Chief of Mission of the United Nations Protection Force in former Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) told a weekly press briefing in Zagreb today that the situation in the Sector South and the Pink Zones remained very tense and that UNPROFOR was considerably hindered in its work by restrictions in its freedom of movement imposed by both sides in the most active areas. He stressed that freedom of movement was essential to carry out important aspects of UNPROFOR's work, such as gathering objective information to be transmitted to the Secretary General.

He underlined the importance of the United Nations' civil police operating in the conflict areas and deplored the fact that a number of these police stations had to be evacuated because of heavy shellings.

Stressing that the situation in former Yugoslavia would probably escalate if UNPROFOR troops withdrew, Mr. Thornberry said there was an urgent need for a peace-making process parallel to the peace-keeping work of UNPROFOR.

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The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) has expressed regret over the continuing "brutal aggression" by Croatia against the areas under the protection of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) despite condemnations made by the Security Council.

In a letter to the Council President, dated 1 February, the Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Ilija Djukic, said he feared that Croatia was preparing a fresh attack on Western Slavonia (Sector West).

He wrote that in addition to infantry, artillery and armoured units, the Croatian forces had also planned to use air forces. Over the past few days, the letter said, the Croatian authorities had been evacuating the civilian population from certain areas and vacating hospitals, which indicated that preparations for a "new aggression" were under way.

Mr. Djukic noted that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as a party to the Vance Plan, had both the obligation and the right to protect the Serb population in the United Nations Protected Area (UNPA). His country had exercised maximum restraint so far in respect to Croatia's aggression in the UNPA's, which was in accordance with its efforts aimed at safeguarding peace and ensuring success of the Geneva Conference, he added.
Document S/25218

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In Cambodia, cease-fire violations were continuing in the south-eastern Siem Reap and north-western Kompong Thom provinces, according to a press release issued today by the United Nations Transitional Authority in that country (UNTAC).

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United Nations military observers were still being denied access to investigate the front, the press release said.

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The United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM), set up under a Security Council resolution, in connection with the disposal of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, established a small standing-inspector presence at the Ibn Al-Haytham missile research and development centre near Baghdad, in order to assess and monitor the research activities undertaken there. Four experts will evaluate the activities at the centre and report their findings to the Commission, on an interim basis.

Under the terms of the Council resolution 687 (1991), Iraq had agreed to renounce permanently weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles with a range greater than 150 kilometres. The Commission identified and destroyed a large number of items and facilities associated with Iraq's ballistic missile programmes.

However, according to information received from the Commission on Tuesday, Iraq has gathered at the Al-Haytham centre scientific and technical personnel formerly involved in the prohibited ballistic missile programmes. The Commission believes that the Ibn Al-Haytham facility needs to be monitored under the plan for ongoing monitoring and verification, Iraq's refusal notwithstanding.

In a separate development, a review of the United Nations Inter-Agency Humanitarian Programme in Iraq, undertaken by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (UNDHA), in consultation with the Government of Iraq and relevant United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, showed that essential food supply needs were being met.

According to a UNDHA press release from Geneva, the review disclosed that from 10 November 1992 to 31 January 1993, a total of 84 United Nations convoys have delivered approximately 25,000 metric tonnes of food, 7,000 metric tonnes of wheat seeds and more than 3 million litres of kerosene. The review also took note that the number of people falling within the vulnerable category has steadily increased and is likely to rise further.

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The World Food Programme (WFP) in Rome today announced that it will provide emergency food assistance for some 60,000 refugees from Tajikistan who have fled civil unrest and are seeking safe haven in Afghanistan. The food will be distributed under the supervision of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The WFP -- the food aid organization of the United Nations -- will supply a total of 6,264 metric tons of wheat, rice, vegetable oil, pulses and sugar

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to the refugees. The assistance, worth $2.76 million, should cover their basic needs for six months

According to the Programme, tens of thousands of people fled south-eastern Tajikistan in early December 1992 after a new government seized power in Dushanbe and fierce fighting erupted between its forces and opposition forces. The influx of refugees increased up to some 80,000 by the first week of January.

The WFP has agreed to assist Afghanistan cope with the Tajik emergency since the country has been devastated by 14 years of continuous war and is itself dealing with a serious internal crisis, as more than 1.5 million Afghan refugees have returned home from Pakistan and Iran. The country is currently facing an acute food and fuel shortage, and there is renewed fighting around the capital, Kabul.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1325
5 February 1993

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council expands UNIKOM's mandate to armed force capable of preventing small-scale violations of demilitarized zone and Iraq-Kuwait boundary at cost of $112 million for initial six months.

+ Incidents relating to arrival of Special Envoy for Haiti in Port-au-Prince as well as harassment of diplomats by de facto authorities in that country condemned by Secretary-General.

+ Map proposed by Co-Chairmen of Yugoslav Conference is "not the best plan for any of three parties", but "the only realistic hope for ending the bloodshed", the Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina tells press conference at Headquarters.

+ Convoy carrying emergency food aid along Nile corridor in Sudan seized and 1,304 metric tons of food confiscated by faction of Sudanese People's Liberation Army, according to United Nations spokesman.

+ Oman and Yemen complete a Boundary Agreement ending 10 years of negotiations on the matter.

• • •

The Security Council has decided to strengthen the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) by replacing an unarmed observation mission with an armed force capable of preventing small-scale violations of the demilitarized zone and the boundary between Iraq and Kuwait.

At a formal meeting this morning, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 806 (1993) by which it asked the Secretary-General to plan and execute a phased deployment of the strengthening of UNIKOM, taking into account the need for economy and other relevant factors. Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, which allows for the use of force to maintain international peace and security, the Council also authorized the Mission to prevent problems that might arise from the presence of Iraqi installations in the demilitarized zone on the Kuwaiti side of the newly demarcated boundary.

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For information media—not an official record

The Secretary-General has estimated that three mechanized infantry battalions, supported by communications and other support staff, are necessary to enable UNIKOM to carry out its new mandate -- a total of 3,645 military personnel at a cost of $112 million for an initial six-month period.

At the outset of the meeting, the President of the Council, Ahmed Snoussi (Morocco), welcomed the new Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations, Madeleine K. Albright.

Ms. Albright, in response, said the Council had moved from the margin to the absolute centre of international peace and security affairs, in a remarkably short space of time. She said that in carrying out her new functions, she would be guided by the joint responsibility of all Council members to build a world of peace "informed by principle and protected by cocperative security".

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has condemned the incidents surrounding the arrival of his Special Envoy, Dante Caputo, at Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The incidents included the harassment of diplomats and attacks on their vehicles by the de facto authorities, both at the airport and at the hotel where Mr. Caputo and his party were scheduled to stay.

According to a statement by the Secretary-General's Spokesman, Joe Sills, Mr. Caputo, who returned to New York last night, had reported on his mission to the Secretary-General this morning. Mr. Boutros-Ghali was reviewing the situation in Haiti and considering the next steps in the light of the situation described to him by Mr. Caputo.

The aim of Mr. Caputo's mission was to facilitate talks on a political solution to the crisis in Haiti and on the possible dispatch by the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) of a civilian-led mission to monitor the human rights situation in the country.

* * *

The map proposed by the Co-Chairmen of the Yugoslav Conference was "not the best plan for any of the three parties, but it is a painful compromise that all three parties should accept", the Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mile Akmandzic, told a press conference at Headquarters today. Mr. Akmandzic, who is a member of the Bosnian Croat delegation to the internal talks on political arrangements for Bosnia and Herzegovina, added that it was the only "realistic hope for ending the bloodshed".

During talks with members of the Security Council yesterday, the Bosnian Croat delegation had told the Council that those who were opposing the plan were "obliged to propose a better plan", which his delegation would then gladly consider. However, he said, if the new plan was not better, then those who had proposed it "should bear responsibility for prolonging the conflict" in Bosnia and Herzegovina. What was needed now was implementation and enforcement of the plan, if necessary by international forces.

Mr. Akmandzic urged that when looking at the plan proposed by Mr. Vance and Lord Owen, too much emphasis should not be given to the delineation of provinces. Regardless of how the lines were drawn, each province would undoubtedly have one group in larger number than another group, he said. For the Bosnian Croat delegation, the provincial boundaries were only a vehicle for the decentralization of power and were in no way a vehicle to divide peoples. His delegation believed that the provincial boundaries would become meaningless because the Croatian people were committed to live with Serbs and Muslims in one State.

Mr. Akmandzic is the Bosnian Croat representative in the internal negotiations with the Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Serbs on the political arrangements for Bosnia and Herzegovina. The two Co-Chairmen of the Yugoslav talks, Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, have proposed a plan, which if agreed to by all three parties would divide the Republic into 10 semi-autonomous provinces.

For talks with third parties such as the United Nations, Mr. Akmandzic is a member of the delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina together with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, Foreign Minister Haris Slajdic, leader of the Bosnian Croats Mate Boban, a member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and a member of the Bosnian Serb government. Together they represent all three parties living in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

* * *

A convoy transporting critically needed emergency food aid along the Nile corridor between Malakal and Juba in southern Sudan was seized and nearly 1,304 metric tons of food confiscated by the Nasir faction of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

At a Headquarters press briefing today a spokesman for the Secretary-General said that the Special Coordinator of the Secretary-General for Emergency and Relief Operations in the Sudan, Michael Priestley, had been instructed to protest the incident and seek assurances that commitments made regarding the safety of relief personnel and supplies would be fully respected.

The spokesman said the incident was deplorable not only because it deprived those so desperately in need but also called into question the validity of the agreements reached with all parties concerned on improved access for humanitarian assistance in southern Sudan.

* * *

The Oman-Yemen Boundary Agreement on the final demarcation of the boundary between the two countries was registered at United Nations Headquarters yesterday, thus ending 10 years of negotiations on the matter.

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The Agreement, in conformity with the principles of the United Nations Charter on the peaceful settlement of disputes, was submitted to the Department of Legal Affairs by the Permanent Representative of Oman and the Chargé d'affaires of Yemen.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1326
8 February 1993

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General condemns attack on United Nations plane in Croatia and wounding of German worker in humanitarian airlift; urges end to such hostile actions.

+ Secretary-General asks Security Council to accept request by El Salvador for United Nations verification of March 1994 elections.

+ In Cambodia, acts of harassment against UNTAC personnel and between rival political factions are occurring regularly, according to UNTAC spokesman.

+ Permanent Observer for Palestine to United Nations says Security Council acceptance of recent agreement between Israel and United States would be "tantamount to legitimizing deportation".

+ Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women, concluding three-week session in Vienna, approves text on women's role in family; adopts recommendations for submission to 1993 World Conference on Human Rights.

+ United Nations role in environmental conflict resolution subject of new study published by UNITAR.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has strongly condemned an incident over the weekend in which a German crew member was wounded when an aircraft of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), taking part in a humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo, came under fire while flying south-west of Karlovac in Croatia. The crew member, who sustained shrapnel injuries in the abdomen, was hospitalized for treatment and is reported to be in stable condition.

In a statement issued today at Headquarters, the Secretary-General said he was deeply concerned that a plane participating in the humanitarian airlift for the suffering citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina had been attacked.

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Such incidents, he said, not only endangered the lives of relief workers and impeded the delivery of urgently needed humanitarian aid, but further jeopardized the international community's efforts to bring an end to the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. The Secretary-General called on all parties to cease immediately all hostile actions against United Nations personnel and aircraft.

According to a press release issued today by the UNHCR, the attack had forced the agency to interrupt temporarily all airlift operations from Zagreb airport. The airlift resumed today after a 36-hour interruption, with French and American planes flying a different route from their bases in France and Germany.

High Commissioner Sadako Ogata also condemned the attack, calling it a "vile and revolting act", and demanded a full explanation for the incident. According to the UNHCR, there have been more than 45 serious incidents involving the operation to airlift humanitarian aid to the people of Sarajevo. The most serious was the downing of an Italian plane on 3 September in which all four crew members died.

Meanwhile, the Chief of Mission for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), Cedric Thornberry, has sent a letter of protest to the Serbian authorities. According to a United Nations spokesman today, the letter stated among other things that UNPROFOR personnel had observed the attack carried out by the Serbian Territorial Defence Forces operating a 23-millimetre anti-aircraft gun.

* * *

The Secretary-General has asked the Security Council to accept a request by El Salvador for United Nations verification of the forthcoming presidential, legislative and municipal elections in that country.

In a letter to the Council President, dated 26 January, the Secretary-General wrote that the elections, scheduled for March 1994, would be the first to take place after the end of the conflict and would in the normal course of events constitute the "logical culmination of the entire peace process".

The Secretary-General has previously proposed that the extra personnel needed by the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) for its monitoring of the elections would be "phased in" and their assignment would end immediately after the elections.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali will present a report to the Council in due course indicating the administrative and financial implications of the Salvadoran request (document S/25241).

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A spokesman for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) said today that acts of minor harassment against UNTAC personnel and between rival political factions were occurring regularly all over the country and that most of them could not be attributed to anyone in particular as they were caused by "unknown assailants".

At a press briefing in Phnom Penh, the spokesman, Eric Falt, said that some of the incidents were definitely attributed to representatives of the Party of the State of Cambodia.

He cited an incident of 4 February in the Siempang District in which the Commander of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces (CPAF), accompanied by seven fully-armed soldiers, had gone into the office of a political party, known as FUNCINPEC, in search of a person who had earlier complained to UNTAC of harassment by the CPAF. The soldiers, who were reportedly under the influence of alcohol, had removed party posters and threatened to kill all persons present if the incident was reported to UNTAC. A civilian-police monitor who had attempted to stop the group was also threatened. However, the spokesman said, an UNTAC patrol of Uruguayan peace-keepers had managed to stop the incident and had moved the CPAF soldiers from the scene.

In general, the spokesman said, there were now fewer cease-fire violations committed by the CPAF and the National Alliance of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK).

* * *

The Permanent Observer for Palestine at the United Nations has said that the recent "agreement" between the Israeli and the United States Governments on the issue of the deportation of more than 400 Palestinians in mid-December was not in compliance with the Security Council's resolution 799 (1992) demanding the safe and immediate return of all the expelled Palestinians.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 4 February, the Permanent Observer for Palestine, M. Nasser Al-Kidwa, said the agreement "did not fulfil the demand made by the Security Council" and that acceptance of it would be "tantamount to legitimizing deportation".

The Council was "duty-bound" to consider immediately the report submitted by the Secretary-General in which he urged the Council to take "whatever measures" to ensure the return of all the Palestinians, the letter stated (document S/ 25242).

* * *

Ending its twelfth session in Vienna on Friday, 5 February, the Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women substantively approved a draft recommendation on women's rights in marriage and family and decided to postpone the final adoption of the recommendation until the Committee's 1994 session.

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The Committee also adopted a set of recommendations to the World Conference on Human Rights, to be held in Vienna from 14 to 25 June, aimed at ensuring that women and men's rights are treated on an equal basis within the framework of general human rights.

In other action, the Committee asked its Chairman, Ivanka Corti, expert from Italy, to send a letter on its behalf to the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in the former Yugoslavia, calling for an investigation of all violations of the human rights of women in the countries concerned.

* * *

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) has published a study on the United Nations role in the prevention and resolution of international environmental conflicts.

The author of the book, Jon Martin Trolldalen, a former environmental specialist at the World Bank, writes that conflicts between nations are due not only to political or military threats, but to the use or misuse of the world's limited natural resources and fragile environment. He warns that local, national, regional and global resources are being stretched at an "unprecedented rate" which is destabilizing the world's ecological balance. That trend, he says, is likely to increase and create additional ecological surprises such as depletion of the ozone layer, sudden loss of species and change in the quality of vital resources as well as other unexpected environmental deterioration.

The study has been conducted in response to growing concern over the increase in international conflicts that are due in part to environmental degradation and offers suggestions on how international environmental conflicts might be prevented.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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9 February 1993

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Agreement reached to allow deployment of International Civil Mission in Haiti; group of United Nations human rights experts and technical personnel will travel to Haiti in coming days.

+ Possibility of reaching agreed solutions among three Bosnian sides reduced by refusal of Bosnian Government delegation to meet with other sides or to discuss provincial boundaries, Secretary-General reports to Security Council.

+ Security Council welcomes El Salvador's request for United Nations verification of March 1994 general elections; expresses concern over failure of Government and FMLN to comply fully with peace agreements, urges completion of peace process.

+ Released in Vienna yesterday, 1993 World Social Situation Report says focused government intervention is vital to resolve enormous disparity between world's rich and poor.

+ Chairmen of Anti-Apartheid Committee and Commission against Apartheid in Sports issue joint statement mourning death of Arthur Ashe.

* * *

Agreement has been reached to allow the deployment of an International Civil Mission in Haiti, according to the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for that country, Dante Caputo.

In a statement read out at a press conference at Headquarters today, Mr. Caputo said the United Nations component of the Mission would be dispatched to Haiti as soon as a group of human rights experts and technical personnel had reported back on the conditions in the country. That group would leave New York in the coming days.

The statement said the agreement marked the "first effective step towards the global solution of the crisis" and the full restoration of democracy in Haiti, as called for by the General Assembly in a resolution adopted last

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For information media--not an official record

year. The Secretary-General believed that the success and continuity of the Mission depended, in particular, on the determination of the parties to cooperate fully in carrying out the Mission's objectives.

The Secretary-General reaffirmed the United Nations readiness to ensure respect for human rights and an end to violence with a view to establishing the necessary conditions for the full restoration of democracy in Haiti, the statement said.

* * *

The possibility of reaching agreed solutions among the three Bosnian sides had been reduced by the "refusal of the Bosnian Government delegation to meet with the other sides or to discuss provincial boundaries", according to a report by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to the Security Council, issued yesterday.

The report outlines developments in the new round of peace talks on Bosnia and Herzegovina, which were held at Headquarters from 3 to 8 February. Negotiations were moved from Geneva to New York by the two Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, in an effort to reach agreement with all three Bosnian parties on a map dividing the country into 10 semi-autonomous provinces.

According to the report, the Bosnian Government took the position that "it was not willing to discuss either the provincial boundaries or interim governmental arrangements". It also declined to meet together with the two other sides.

The Bosnian Serb side, the report stated, continued to maintain that many predominantly Serb areas had been excluded from Serb majority provinces. It continued to take the position that it would accept and sign the map only if the populations of contested areas were consulted. That condition was rejected by the Co-Chairmen on the ground that there had been "so much 'ethnic cleansing' and displacement of population in Bosnia and Herzegovina" that such consultations would not be democratic.

The report recalled that the Bosnian Croat side had already signed the map as well as the proposed constitutional principles.

A revised map with modifications in the proposed provincial boundaries was submitted by the Co-Chairmen in the hope that it might be acceptable to all three Bosnian parties. But it was rejected by the Bosnian Serb side, and the Co-Chairmen remained committed to their original proposal, the report said.

Meanwhile, Cyrus Vance, the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy on the former Yugoslavia, told the Security Council yesterday that the first and fundamental objective of the peace talks was to stop the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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In a statement delivered during consultations of the Council yesterday evening, Mr. Vance said that he and Lord Owen, the European Community negotiator, were concerned about the danger of the conflict spreading in the Balkan region. They were also committed to stop the criminal practice of "ethnic cleansing" and to reverse its consequences.

Mr. Vance went on to say that he and Lord Owen had also proposed a range of mechanisms for protecting human and minority rights in the future, including the setting up of a constitutional court, a human rights court, four ombudsmen with broad powers of investigation and action, and the establishment of an international commission on human rights for Bosnia and Herzegovina. They had also strongly advocated the establishment of an international criminal court to try persons accused of crimes against humanity.

He emphasized that the Conference had constantly sought to maintain the status of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a sovereign, independent, integral and multi-ethnic state. "We rejected proposals from the outset for Bosnia and Herzegovina to be organized as a confederation with three constituent units -- in effect three states-within-a-state", he said. (Document S/25248)

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The Security Council has welcomed El Salvador's request to the United Nations to verify the general elections scheduled for March 1994. The Secretary-General had forwarded the Salvadoran request in a letter to the Council President, dated 26 January, in which he said the elections would constitute the "logical culmination of the entire peace process".

In a statement read out on behalf of the members by its President, Ahmed Snoussi (Morocco), the Council expressed concern that the Government of El Salvador had yet to comply fully with recommendations concerning the purification of its armed forces. It also expressed concern that the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) had not completed the destruction of its weapons by the agreed deadline and was therefore not yet in full compliance with the Peace Agreements.

Emphasizing the solemn nature of the undertakings made by the parties in the Peace Agreements, the Council strongly urged them to persist in their determination to complete the process of bringing peace and national reconciliation to El Salvador and to continue cooperating with the Secretary-General's efforts to ensure that those Agreements were implemented fully.

The Council welcomed the important progress made thus far in the peace process in El Salvador, emphasizing the formal end to the armed conflict there on 15 December 1992, which had concluded more than 10 years of war.

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According to the 1993 Report on the World Social Situation, which was released in Vienna yesterday, focused government intervention can be vital to resolving the enormous disparity in physical and material well-being that continues to divide the world's rich and the poor.

The report analyses some major social issues which the forthcoming World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Denmark in 1995, is expected to address. The issues include population growth and migration, hunger, health, education, housing, unemployment, quality of life, income distribution and government expenditure on social services. Furthermore, it examines issues such as economic and social institutions, social security reforms, ethnic conflicts and the social consequences of advances in technology.

Prepared every four years by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development in accordance with the resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, the report also underlines the need to target women and other vulnerable groups for specific social assistance.

In addition to a declining world economy, the escalation in ethnic and religious conflicts has played a significant role in destroying conditions essential for socio-economic development, the report says. In 1989-1990, there were 33 armed conflicts worldwide, all but two of which were civil wars. The number of casualties of those conflicts have been very high and the effects severe.

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Arthur Ashe, the American tennis champion who died on 6 February, was, through courage and example, instrumental in exposing and pulling down racial barriers in sports and in society as a whole, according to a joint statement issued today by the Chairmen of the Special Committee against Apartheid and the Commission against Apartheid in Sports. Mr. Ashe was also the Co-Chairman of Athletes and Artists against Apartheid.

The Chairmen, Ibrahim A. Gambari (Nigeria) and E. Besley Maycock (Barbados) said Mr. Ashe, an untiring campaigner against the South African apartheid system, had successfully led the campaign to expel South Africa from the Davis Cup. He had given generously of his time and energy to support athletes who had been victims of racial discrimination and had encouraged a new generation to isolate South Africa in sports until apartheid was abolished.

The statement said Mr. Ashe would be "remembered with gratitude" by all those who, like he was, are committed and engaged in defending or restoring human rights and justice everywhere and, in particular, in bringing about an end to apartheid through a new democratic and non-racial society in South Africa.

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